8898875/2024/SC-D-GAD01

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Servants – All India Services - Sri Siva Sankar Lotheti, I.A.S. (2013), former Collector and District Magistrate, Palnadu District - Disciplinary Proceedings under Rule 8 of All India Services (Disciplinary & Appeal) Rules, 1969 – Article of Charge – Orders – Issued.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (SC-D) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.943. Dated:18-05-2024.

Read the following:

1. From Chief Secretary to Government, GoAP, Lr. Dated: 16-05-2024 addressed to the Prl. Secy., Election Commission of India, New Delhi.
2. From the Prl. Secretary, Election Commission of India, New Delhi Lr. No.464/AP/SOU3/2024, dt.16-05-2024.
3. G.O.Rt.No.925, General Administration (SC-A) Department, Dated:16-05-2024.

ORDER:

It is proposed to hold an inquiry against Sri Siva Sankar Lotheti, I.A.S.(2013), former Collector and District Magistrate, Palnadu District, in accordance with the procedure laid down under Rule 8 of All India Services (Disciplinary & Appeal) Rules, 1969

2. Whereas, Government have decided to initiate disciplinary proceedings against Sri Siva Sankar Lotheti, I.A.S. (2013) , former Collector and District Magistrate, Palnadu District, under Rule 8 of All India Services (Disciplinary & Appeal) Rules, 1969, for his failure to discharge official duties as District Election Officer, and showing gross negligence in performing his official duties.

3. The substance of imputations of misconduct or misbehavior in respect of Sri Siva Sankar Lotheti, I.A.S. (2013), former Collector and District Magistrate, Palnadu District, for which the inquiry is proposed to be held is set out in the enclosed statement of Article of Charge (Annexure-I). A list of documents by which and a list of witnesses by whom, the article of charge proposed to be sustained are as enclosed (Annexure-II, III and IV).

4. Sri Siva Sankar Lotheti, I.A.S. (2013), is directed to submit a written statement of defence and also state whether he desires to be heard in person within 15 days of the receipt of this order.

5. Sri Siva Sankar Lotheti, I.A.S. (2013), is informed that an inquiry will be held only in respect of those Article of Charge which is not admitted and in case if it is considered necessary. He should, therefore, specifically admit or deny the Article of Charge.

6. Sri Siva Sankar Lotheti, I.A.S. (2013), is further informed that if no written statement of defence is filed within the time specified in Para 3 above, or if he does not appear in person before the Inquiry Authority or otherwise fails or refuses to comply with the provisions of Rule 8 of All India Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1969 or the orders or directions issued in pursuance of the said Rules, action will be taken against him on the basis of the material available on record, on the ground that he has no explanation to offer.

7. The attention of Sri Siva Sankar Lotheti, I.A.S. (2013), is invited to Rule 18 of the All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968, according to which no Member of Service shall bring or attempt to bring any political or outside influence to bear upon any superior authority to further his interests in respect of matters pertaining to his service under the Government. If any representation is received on his behalf from another person in respect of any matter dealt with in these proceedings, it will be presumed that Sri Siva Sankar Lotheti, I.A.S. (2013), is aware of such representation and that it has been made at his instance and action will be taken against him for violation of Rule 18 of the All India Service (Conduct) Rules, 1968.

8. This order is sent to Sri Siva Sankar Lotheti, I.A.S. (2013), in duplicate. He is directed to acknowledge the receipt with date on the duplicate copy and return the same to the Government immediately.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

Dr. K.S.JAWAHAR REDDY
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Sri Siva Sankar Lotheti, I.A.S. (2013), former Collector and District Magistrate, Palnadu District.
The Principal Secretary, Election Commission of India,
Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi 110001

Copy to:-
The Secretary to Government of India, Department of Personnel & Training, North Block, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110001
The C.E.O. & E.O. Prl. Secy., to Govt.,
The P.S to Chief Secretary / Prl. Secretary (POLL)
The G.A. (Elections) Dept.,
The General Administration (SC-A / SC-E) Department.
SF/SC.

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SECTION OFFICER (SC)

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ANNEXURE – I

STATEMENT OF ARTICLE OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI SIVA SANKAR LOTHETI, I.A.S. (2013), FORMER COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, PALNADU DISTRICT.

That Sri Siva Sankar Lotheti, I.A.S. (2013), former Collector and District Magistrate, Palnadu District, has failed to discharge his official duties as District Election Officer. On poll-day and post-poll day incidents occurred to control law and order situation, resulting unforeseen incidents like setting of vehicles ablaze, stone pelting, destruction of EVMs and damage to houses. Therefore, he rampantly causing significant law and order issue in Palnadu District like vehicles were set ablaze, stone pelt instances happened, 15 EVMs destructed, damage of houses by the un-ruled mob, in-spite of vast bandobust arrangements were made. Sri Siva Sankar Lotheti, I.A.S. (2013), former Collector and District Magistrate, Palnadu District, failed to utilize the forces and control the law and order situation occurred on poll-day & post-poll day.

Article of Charge:-

Sri Siva Sankar Lotheti, I.A.S. (2013), former Collector and District Magistrate, Palnadu District, being the District Election Officer has failed to coordinate with the District Police administration to maintain Law and Order situation in the District on 13-05-2024. This has resulted to damage of 15 EVMs out of total 16 EVMs damaged in the State, and twenty incidents of violence involving destruction of 15 EVMs, setting of vehicles ablaze and stone pelting etc. In spite of occurrence of incidents on 13-05-2024 he also failed to control the Law and Order situation on 14-05-2024 which lead to further seven incidents of violence on 14-05-2024 involving stone pelting, burning of vehicles, damage of properties etc. He failed to coordinate with the law enforcement agencies and displayed lack of sincerity and commitment in discharge of his legitimate duties, failed to make use of security forces allotted to the district and has made himself liable for strict disciplinary action.

2. By his above mentioned acts he exhibited gross dereliction of duty, misconduct and lack of devotion to his legitimate duties and acted in a manner that is unbecoming of such employee and thereby, violated Rule 3 (1), 3 (2), 3 (2B) (xiii) of All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968.

3. Hence, the Charge.

Dr. K.S.JAWAHAR REDDY
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

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SECTION OFFICER (SC)

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ANNEXURE – II

STATEMENT OF IMPUTATIONS IN SUPPORT OF ARTICLE OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI SIVA SANKAR LOTHETI, I.A.S. (2013), FORMER COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, PALNADU DISTRICT.

Imputation of charge:

It is submitted that simultaneous General Elections to Lok Sabha and AP Legislative Assembly, 2024 were held on 13-05-2024 with voting percentage of 81.86%. Despite elaborative arrangements made by the state administration, incidents of violence were recorded on 13-04-2024 on the day of poll as well as post poll day i.e. 14-05-2024. Incidents involving significant disturbance to the law and order situations happened in the Districts of Palnadu, Anantapuramu and Tirupati. The situation arising out of these incidents was discussed with DGP and Addl. DG Intelligence and a report is submitted to the commission

Incidents involving law and order situation occurred in Palnadu District on 13-05-2024 including destruction of 15 EVMs in the District of Palnadu and the incidents happened on the day of poll and post poll day. Incidents happened despite presence of large number of security and police personnel.

Sri Siva Sankar Lotheti, IAS as Collector and District Magistrate, Palnadu District failed to coordinate with the law enforcement agencies and displayed lack of sincerity and commitment in discharge of duties. He is also found wanting in other aspects of election related work as a District Election Officer. Hence, his continuation as Collector and District Magistrate is not desirable for remaining part of election process in the District.

Sri Siva Sankar Lotheti, IAS as Collector and District Magistrate, Palnadu by his above mentioned acts exhibited gross negligence of duty misconduct and lack of devotion to duty and acted in a manner unbecoming of employee and there by violated Rule 3(1), 3 (2), 3(2B)(xiii) of All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968.

Dr. K.S.JAWAHAR REDDY
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

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SECTION OFFICER (SC)

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ANNEXURE – III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BY WHICH THE ARTICLE OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI SIVA SANKAR LOTHETI, I.A.S. (2013), FORMER COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, PALNADU DISTRICT ARE PROPOSED TO BE SUSTAINED.

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1. List of incidents reported by the District administration.
2. From the Prl. Secretary, Election Commission of India, New Delhi Lr. No.464/AP/SOU3/2024, dt.16-05-2024
3. Report of Director General of Police, Mangalagiri, A.P. vide C.No.378/G1/2024, Dated: 17-05-2024.

Dr. K.S.JAWAHAR REDDY
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

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SECTION OFFICER (SC)

ANNEXURE – IV

LIST OF WITNESSES BY WHOM THE ARTICLE OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI SIVA SANKAR LOTHETI, I.A.S. (2013), FORMER COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, PALNADU DISTRICT, ARE PROPOSED TO BE SUSTAINED.

-NIL-

Dr. K.S.JAWAHAR REDDY
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

// FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER (SC)